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Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report has been prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/61 and General Assembly resolution 46/173. The report provides information on the role of the United Nations in carrying out assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon for the period 1 August 1991 through 31 May 1992. The report contains an introduction, a review of the general situation in Lebanon, a description of the activities of the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and conclusions.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/61 and General Assembly resolution 46/173. It provides a brief description of the progress achieved in Lebanon between 1 August 1991 and 31 May 1992 in implementing those resolutions.

II. GENERAL SITUATION

2. During the period under review, the Government of Lebanon continued to address issues related to reconstruction and rehabilitation. In 1991, there was good progress towards economic recovery, although the economy remained beset with problems. There was a rapid revival in production and trade made possible by the stabilization of the exchange rate and the parallel reduction in domestic inflation, both of which were helped by large inflows of short-term capital (official exchange reserves improved by US\$ 600 million during 1991). The gross domestic product (GDP) for 1991 is estimated to have undergone in real terms up to a 40 per cent increase over that for 1990, with rapid growth in construction and manufacturing. Exports increased. The exchange rate was stabilized as of the second trimester, whereas inflation in dollar terms was limited to 15 per cent. Other achievements of 1991 included the stabilization of the Lebanese currency, a significant surplus in the balance of payments, increased cash flow and recapitalization of banks, and increasing stability of economic institutions. The main problem related to the country's significant budget deficit and massive internal debt, but inflation also remained a concern. There was, however, an improvement in the overall consolidated government deficit in 1991, which declined to 27 per cent of GDP in 1991 from 34 per cent in 1990 on account of substantial improvements in fiscal performance.

3. The encouraging economic results of 1991 were not sustainable beyond the short term in so far as the exchange rate and price stabilization policy implied a major fiscal adjustment, with the costs of servicing the rapidly rising domestic debt bound to aggravate the fiscal disequilibrium. The government decision of December 1991 to grant a 120 per cent salary and wage increase in the public sector retroactive to January 1991, on account of improved economic expectations and in an attempt to improve socio-economic conditions of government employees, had serious negative results. It changed investors' perceptions of the ability of the authorities to maintain the stabilization policy, which was the basis of the Government's economic recovery strategy. The injection of a large dose of liquidity as a result of the salary increase led to the expectation of a depreciation in the value of the Lebanese pound, triggering a sharp loss in reserves (about US\$ 600 million), which led in turn to the abandonment of the stabilization policy in late February 1992. Within two weeks, the Lebanese pound depreciated from LL 878 to LL 1,200 (in February 1992). The Government subsequently announced the adoption of an emergency plan to deal with an

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economic crisis; the plan centred on control of the fiscal deficit and intended to constitute an important first step towards solving the country's economic problems. The further depreciation of the Lebanese pound to LL 1,600 by the end of April led to social unrest. The new Government, which assumed office in May 1992, has put at the top of its agenda rapid and decisive action to deal with the economic and social crisis and is presently considering a plan to restore economic stability as a pre-condition for regaining private sector confidence and bringing about economic reconstruction and development.

4. The government effort to prepare and implement a reorganization of government administration and an administrative reform, initiated in mid-1991, was put on hold at the end of 1991, and the proposals submitted by different government ministers were referred to a committee of national experts for review and consolidation. The committee was also to review the government decisions to merge the Ministry of National Economy and Trade and the Ministry of Industry and Petroleum and to create new government departments for culture, for higher education, and for environment and municipal affairs. The committee has not yet reported to the Council of Ministers. There appears to be significant scope for assistance of the United Nations system with respect to institutional adjustment and administrative reform.

5. The Government announced early in February 1992 an initiative towards solving the problem of displaced persons, whose number is estimated at more than 500,000, or roughly 20 per cent of the population. The Government has initiated a census of all displaced persons that was scheduled to be followed by a national conference late in June 1992 to discuss the strategy, policy options and action programmes to be adopted. If and when a major resettlement and reintegration effort gets under way, massive financial support will be required to meet housing needs and to lay down the basic infrastructure and public services, particularly in the areas that suffered heavy destruction and a major outflow of population. The Government has already called on the United Nations system to provide initial assistance in this respect.

6. The Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) has activated and accelerated preparations towards the initiation of reconstruction and the mobilization of required resources. In May 1991 CDR commissioned from private consultants (International Bechtel and Dar Al Handasa) a recovery planning study in three phases (namely rehabilitation, reconstruction and development) to be completed in 16 months. Recovery planning is regarded by CDR as a process that is to be continuously revised and updated. Phase I (rehabilitation), which aimed to restore the capacity of existing facilities and institutions and to pursue appropriate action to initiate subsequent steps of recovery, was completed in December 1991. It received the approval in principle of the Council of Ministers in April 1992. CDR initiated phase II of the recovery planning early in 1992.

7. The Priority Rehabilitation Programme (PRP), the main output of phase I of the recovery planning, sets total investment requirements at US\$ 4.4 billion (of which US\$ 1.1 billion are provisional) over the period

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1992-1996. PRP assumes a rate of investment of 30 per cent of GDP, of which 40 per cent is in the public sector, and rapid progress in recovery of revenues and effective control of government expenditures. PRP assumes a real rate of growth of GDP of 15 per cent annually, the maintaining of public expenditures in real terms at the level of 1988-1990 plus 15 per cent and the raising of US\$ 600-800 million from foreign sources annually. It is planned that US\$ 2.3 billion (excluding US\$ 712 million in provisional requirements) will be disbursed during the rehabilitation period (1992-1994), of which US\$ 1.5 billion will be for public physical investment, US\$ 550 million for credit to the private sector and US\$ 204 million for technical assistance. Fifty-six per cent of total planned investment (excluding provisional requirements) will involve foreign exchange requirements. PRP comprises a total of 126 infrastructure and services projects, each of which has a number of subprojects, mainly concentrated in Beirut and Mount Lebanon.

8. With respect to the supporting action required by CDR itself to ensure successful implementation of PRP, the need exists for the establishment of an information and data base; the development of a comprehensive monitoring system; the establishment of implementation organizations in support of expanding CDR management capacity; the establishment of policies and procedures to deal with contractors and consultants; and the pursuit of a diversified financing strategy for individual sectors and for technical assistance. CDR has already requested the United Nations system, specifically the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to consider provision of assistance to strengthen CDR management and implementation capacity. CDR also places emphasis on parallel complementary action in the wider context of the national government, including in particular comprehensive action towards institutional adjustment and development of public sector management.

9. PRP provides a framework and basis for initiating rehabilitation activity. Its completion in a short period of time has been a remarkable achievement of CDR. The Government of Lebanon has requested the donor community to mobilize for assisting reconstruction and to consider allocating necessary resources for programme implementation. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were requested in the fall of 1991 to review the state of the economy and the monetary sector with a view to mobilizing support for an emergency rehabilitation programme and participating through an emergency loan. PRP was introduced to the World Bank Aid Coordination Meeting held in Paris on 12 and 13 December 1991. In follow-up to the meeting, CDR, with grant assistance from the European Community, has undertaken to identify and formulate an emergency rehabilitation programme in priority sectors, namely electricity, communications, water-supply and waste management and housing. Damage assessment and project preparation were completed between January and May 1992 for those priority sectors.

10. During the review period, there has been increasing and sustained interest of the donor community in surveying the situation and exploring priority needs for reconstruction. Loan agreements totalling US\$ 110 million were concluded in December 1991 with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social

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Development (US\$ 75 million) and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (US\$ 35 million) for the rehabilitation of the electricity network. It is noted that as of 1 January 1992 assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources allocated, and in principle available to Lebanon, amounted to about US\$ 700 million, of which 75 per cent was commercial loans and 25 per cent grants (US\$ 135 million in economic assistance and US\$ 40 million in humanitarian assistance and support to private education institutions) and very soft loans (US\$ 18 million). In the first quarter of 1992, an important agreement with the Government of Italy was also announced, the amount involved totalling US\$ 460 million, including a mixture of grants, soft loans and commercial credits (the agreement recapitulated assistance granted but not implemented since 1983, as well as important new resources). The European Community has repeatedly reconfirmed readiness to programme and implement financial resources amounting to US\$ 230 million allocated to Lebanon during past years.

11. CDR also continued preparations during the period under review for the reconstruction of the Beirut Central District, proposed for implementation with only private sector financing through a land development company to be established with an initial capital of US\$ 2 billion. Parliament approved the approach and the programme for reconstruction. CDR, at the request of the Council of Ministers, has also been engaged in making preparations for the reconstruction of other regions destroyed or heavily damaged in the course of past events.

12. Finally, it is noted that the investment performance of the public sector in 1991 amounted to US\$ 193 million, or less than 5 per cent of GDP, compared with US\$ 49 million in 1990 and US\$ 40 million in 1989. In 1991, US\$ 49 million in public investment was from external sources, particularly grants from Saudi Arabia and the European Community. It is obvious that recent investment performance in the public sector is not commensurate in any way with the vast needs of immediate rehabilitation.

III. ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

13. Provision of economic assistance to Lebanon by the United Nations is managed at the central level by the Office of the Under-Secretary-General in the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. At the field level, the programme of United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon (UNARDOL) functions as the United Nations coordinator's office and ensures coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in support of the overall objectives and specific programmes of the Government of Lebanon.

14. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/173, operative paragraph 5 (b), the Secretary-General nominated in December 1991 a Resident Coordinator in Beirut to coordinate all United Nations programmes of assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. The Coordinator

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arrived in Beirut in mid-January 1992 and immediately took action to create a coherent framework for enhanced coordination and expanded activities of economic and technical assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon.

15. The existing agencies and programmes that were operational in Lebanon during the past review period have been upgraded, expanded their presence and continued their operational activities while preparing for expanded programmes. Most notably, UNDP reactivated its operations after a long period of relative inactivity and staffed its field office through the appointment of a Resident Representative (who is also the United Nations/UNARDOL Resident Coordinator) in January 1992, a Deputy Resident Representative in March 1992 and an Assistant Resident Representative and Junior Professional Officer in June 1992. A new World Health Organization (WHO) representative and coordinator was again appointed and arrived in Beirut in April 1992. In addition to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) representative, a Programme Officer was appointed to coordinate the programme as of September 1991. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Regional Office for Education in the Arab States reopened in Beirut in April 1992.

16. As indicated above, government efforts since 1991 have been directed towards reactivation of reconstruction and development. A significant supporting effort in this respect was the United Nations Inter-Agency Needs Assessment Mission to Lebanon, 15 to 24 July 1991 (see document A/46/557, Add.2, comprising the Mission's Final Report), which provided a comprehensive assessment of technical assistance needs from a joint United Nations perspective. The Mission determined that technical assistance needs of Lebanon totalled US\$ 232.2 million, comprising US\$ 120.3 million in the short term and US\$ 111.9 million in the medium term; the Mission also indicated food aid needs totalling US\$ 45 million. Highly indicative estimates of capital requirements for a few select infrastructure sectors were also provided (amounting to US\$ 3.7 billion in the short and medium terms). Whereas the Mission subscribed to the view that the rehabilitation of the country's decimated infrastructure was unquestionably a priority, there was equally emphasis on the fact that priority must be given to humanitarian and human development needs, in addition to restoring the income-generating infrastructure. The Mission concluded that reconstruction and development efforts must be centred on the building of capacity, whether that meant bringing public services back to operating capacity, restoring and developing within both the public and private sectors the capacity necessary to absorb the tremendous amount of assistance and investment required to rebuild the country or creating the human capacity needed to direct reconstruction and manage development. The major driving force behind the country's reconstruction must come from domestic potential and from the private sector, both within and outside Lebanon. The Final Report of the Mission was welcomed and carefully considered by the Government, and CDR considered the technical assistance needs assessment to be a comprehensive and coherent exercise that

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would serve as a basis for more detailed, in-depth reviews and analysis directed towards preparation of specific technical assistance programmes and proposals.

17. The Final Report of the United Nations Inter-Agency Needs Assessment Mission to Lebanon was also submitted to and reviewed at the World Bank Aid Coordination Meeting that was convened in December 1991 in Paris. The meeting recognized the need for substantial technical assistance and support and suggestions were made with regard to establishing a technical assistance trust fund. Subsequently, the World Bank requested the United Nations Resident Coordinator to study the subject and submit a proposal to the planned donor coordination meeting scheduled to be held in the summer of 1992 and subsequently postponed until the third/fourth quarter of 1992.

18. At the same Donor Aid Coordination Meeting preliminary estimates of Lebanon's requirements for financial and technical assistance were considered. The Meeting expressed strong support for the creation of an effective aid coordination mechanism to be established to assist Lebanon in the implementation of economic policy and in the areas of resource mobilization and technical assistance. Any such mechanism would not prejudice or supersede aid to Lebanon through other channels.

19. With respect to programme implementation for agencies and programmes of the United Nations system in Lebanon, data pertaining to the operations of the main agencies and programmes present in the country, excluding the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Near East (UNRWA), showed the following expenditures: US\$ 10 million in 1990 and US\$ 15 million in 1991. Funded resources for the year 1992 amount to approximately US\$ 18 million, mainly for technical assistance. These figures are comparable with estimated requirements for the priority national rehabilitation programme of US\$ 84 million during the coming three years.

United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and
Development of Lebanon

20. The United Nations/UNARDOL Resident Coordinator promotes cooperation and coordination of United Nations system activities with a view to establishing, at the field level, a strong, integrated United Nations system programme in support of the objectives of the Government's reconstruction and development programme. The United Nations Coordinator works towards creating mechanisms that will ensure the provision of the necessary resources for expanded United Nations activities and undertakes related resource mobilization through coherent and coordinated action at the levels of government, the United Nations system and the donor community. The United Nations Coordinator, in the implementation of his or her mandate, works closely and harmoniously with representatives of the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system.

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21. To strengthen United Nations activity in support of Lebanon, the preparation in the short term of a priority technical cooperation programme to sensitize donors and mobilize resources through an international campaign is intended; within this context, parallel action is required to improve the organization and management of technical cooperation at the government level and to strengthen technical assistance mechanisms geared towards the needs of Lebanon at the international level.

22. During the review period, UNARDOL continued monthly security meetings of chiefs of missions and programmes in liaison with the Chief United Nations Liaison Office Beirut, the Israel-Lebanon Mixed Armistice Coalition (ILMAC) and UNIFIL to monitor developments and their implications for field operations and to review and improve the United Nations field security system in Lebanon. UNARDOL also continued to administer the field security system.

23. The United Nations Coordinator reactivated monthly meetings of the joint coordinating committee of the agencies and programmes of the United Nations system. Activities in this connection included monitoring and reporting on the economic situation, economic developments and economic assistance to Lebanon, and regular briefing of representatives; briefing sessions to exchange information on agency programmes and activities and to explore possibilities for cooperation; and review and processing of administrative matters of a common nature. Following consultations with CDR, the joint coordinating committee of agencies and programmes of the United Nations system acts as an advisory group to the Government on policy matters and issues of reconstruction and development. In this connection, PRP was reviewed and assessed by the United Nations field team and a written view was transmitted to CDR and subsequently discussed in detail. The main issue related to the need for increased attention to policy-making, institution building and human development as essential conditions for increasing the chances of success of the rehabilitation programme.

24. During the period under review, inter-agency sectoral working groups on education, displaced persons and primary health care were established. Working groups are also being considered for water-supply and waste management. The main aim of the working groups is to establish an integrated programme of work through identification, preparation, implementation and follow-up of collaborative action. Initial experience has been very satisfactory.

25. The United Nations Coordinator has also reactivated the local Donor Coordination Committee, where developments relating to reconstruction and economic assistance are reviewed, donor intentions exposed and policy issues discussed. It is intended to strengthen considerably the work of the Committee with a view to further streamlining and enhancing coordinated assistance to reconstruction, particularly with respect to technical assistance. Bilateral contacts with representatives from donor countries have continued.

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26. The United Nations Coordinator maintained a close liaison and follow-up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the Council for Development and Reconstruction on issues related to United Nations activities in Lebanon and on policy issues, programmes and activities of reconstruction and development. UNARDOL monitored CDR activities and performance. UNARDOL also maintained a liaison and undertook contacts with private sector associations and non-governmental organizations.

27. UNARDOL coordinates activity with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) to achieve improved media reporting on United Nations system operational activities and is in the process of preparing a booklet on the United Nations system and its programmes in Lebanon.

28. UNARDOL has cooperated closely and provided substantive support to UNDP with respect to the structuring and development of technical cooperation, in particular the initial preparation for the country programme, including Technical Support Service (TSS) programme proposals, preparatory assistance documents for rehabilitation of priority sectors, identification and formulation of priority projects, participation in project reviews and evaluation and guidance and support to incoming missions and consultants.

29. UNARDOL has continued to manage the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) programme in Lebanon, specifically assistance for the rehabilitation of the electricity network (provision of spare parts, small equipment, materials) and emergency assistance following the snowstorms disaster during January/March 1992.

30. UNARDOL participated in the World Bank preliminary economic assessment mission of September 1991 and provided logistical and technical support as well. UNARDOL participated in the World Bank Aid Coordination Meeting of December 1991 as well as in the parallel technical discussion between the World Bank and CDR to review the programme and define preparatory work required for an emergency loan. UNARDOL participated in the World Bank Economic Assessment Mission to Lebanon between 20 April and 1 May 1992 and contributed the chapter on public administration. In general, UNARDOL maintains close contacts with the World Bank group and the International Monetary Fund.

31. During the period under review, the United Nations and the programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their spheres of competence, continued to implement a wide range of projects of assistance to Lebanon.

United Nations

32. The United Nations (Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat) has programmes of relevance and has implemented, or will implement, projects in Lebanon in the fields of development planning, statistics and development administration.

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33. A team from the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) headed by the Executive Secretary visited Lebanon on 10-12 March 1992. After extensive consultations involving high-level officials and CDR, a memorandum of understanding was signed between ESCWA and CDR identifying for the first stage the following six target areas for the assistance that ESCWA may extend to Lebanon:

- (a) Survey of Lebanese expatriates;
- (b) Strengthening of statistics;
- (c) Framework of macroeconomic policies;
- (d) Housing problems and priority programmes;
- (e) Industrial survey and development of industrial estates;

(f) Rehabilitation of the agricultural sector with emphasis on agricultural credit and replacement of undesirable crops.

As follow-up of these activities, several missions were undertaken by staff from concerned divisions to identify specific problems, programme of work and recommended action to be taken.

34. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) continued to provide humanitarian assistance on an ad hoc basis to alleviate emergency needs in its area of operations in southern Lebanon.

United Nations Children's Fund

35. The military operations in the south and Bekaa areas did not help improve the condition of children and women after 17 years of civil war. In addition, the recent deterioration in the economic situation and the substantial loss in the purchasing power of the Lebanese pound have already made services less accessible to poor families. The forthcoming nutrition survey to be jointly conducted with the World Food Programme (WFP) is expected to assess the change in the extent of malnutrition.

36. In the health sector, UNICEF continued its support to health service delivery, the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI), the Essential Drugs Programme (EDP) and the promotion and protection of breast-feeding.

37. UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO, is giving priority to strengthening and sustaining service delivery. Work is under way to transform the emergency relief units established in 1989 into a more permanent network of primary health-care centres. Essential drugs were distributed in February-March to more than 800 governmental and non-governmental dispensaries in conjunction with training sessions on the use of drugs and provision of preventive care.

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38. Success in attaining the goal for Universal Childhood Immunization (UCI) was further consolidated. A survey conducted in March showed that 85 per cent of children had completed their triple vaccine/polio (DPT/OPV) and 51 per cent their measles vaccine before their first birthday. In addition, national vaccination days were celebrated in April and May to reach unvaccinated infants and defaulters, particularly in remote areas like Akkar and Al Hirmil (Hermel) and those showing low immunization coverage levels. A third round was planned for June.

39. In the field of infant nutrition, UNICEF supported the National Committee for the promotion of breast-feeding, holding a workshop in May that resulted in a plan of action for the coming year drawn up to promote breast-feeding and provide a more conducive environment for breast-feeding in hospitals and maternity centres.

40. In the water-supply sector, the emergency repairs of the Beirut water-supply financed by the European Community (EEC) through UNDRO were completed in early 1992. The last project for rural water supply financed by Germany is expected to become operational in south Lebanon in July. The joint efforts of the Ministry of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources and the American University of Beirut (with UNICEF support) in establishing a national capacity for water-quality testing have gone beyond the mid-point and the operation is expected to be completed in 1993. However, plans for increasing water-supply for periurban and rural areas await supplementary funding.

41. Work in the education sector maintained its momentum. Summer camps under the Education for Peace Programme were held as scheduled, benefiting 38,000 children, and were followed by practical, hands-on training of 1,348 animateurs from 116 local non-governmental organizations during the spring season. Some 70,000 copies of four issues of the children's magazine SAWA were distributed. Work is well advanced in developing materials for incorporating this activity within the curriculum of primary education. UNICEF, together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), initiated a project to improve the capacity of the Ministry of Education for the computerization and management of information on infrastructure, teaching/supervisory staff and pupils.

42. UNICEF finalized with the Government of Lebanon a five-year Programme of Cooperation (1992-1996) that was submitted to its Executive Board in June 1992 for a commitment of \$5 million from general resources and \$20 million from external funding to be sought.

United Nations Development Programme

43. During the review period, UNDP activities primarily concentrated on preparatory work for the formulation of the Third Country Programme for Lebanon and on management of ongoing programme activities, including identification and formulation of programmes for rehabilitation of priority sectors. Total Fourth and Fifth Cycle indicative planning figures (IPF) or core UNDP resources committed by the end of May 1992 amounted to US\$ 3.858 billion leaving an estimated US\$ 15 million uncommitted. Approximately US\$ 700,000 in IPF resources was spent in 1991.

44. Pursuant to the World Bank-initiated Aid Coordination Meeting of December 1991 held in Paris, preparations are also under way to review mechanisms for mobilizing technical assistance with emphasis on both assessing the possibility of creating a technical assistance facility for Lebanon and creating institutional capacity within the Government to centrally manage and coordinate technical cooperation.

45. In preparation for the formulation of the Third Country Programme for Lebanon, which is to cover the period 1993-1996, UNDP submitted a draft advisory note to the Government of Lebanon for its consideration. The advisory note reflects the policy dialogue held between CDR and UNDP over the first five months of 1992 and outlines the overall development and programme themes on which UNDP proposes to focus. These include (a) social reconstruction, (b) reactivation of public and private sectors through support to economic management and public administration reform, and (c) economic revitalization through balanced, sustainable development.

46. Another focus of UNDP technical cooperation is the establishment in CDR of a technical assistance unit with capability to manage and coordinate at the government level all technical cooperation coming to the country from all sources. Such a mechanism will help the Government efficiently utilize resources to meet priority needs while avoiding overlapping and unnecessary duplication.

47. In addition to these programme-level activities, below is a summary of major ongoing and pipeline project activities conducted during the reporting period in selected sectors.

General development issues, policy and planning

48. Activities continued throughout 1991 and 1992 in implementing the project "Umbrella fellowships and advisory services" to meet ad hoc pressing short duration training needs of government officials in priority sectors.

49. During the review period, preparatory assistance was completed to formulate the full-scale project "Rehabilitation of the National Statistics Agency and Programme". The formulation mission took place in February 1992 and the draft document is currently under review by the field office before transmittal to the Government for its consideration. This project will meet a

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top priority need in support of national efforts to plan and manage reconstruction and development; it is hoped that implementation will start by early September 1992.

50. Following extensive consultations, a particularly important activity conducted over the last year was the approval of an umbrella preparatory assistance in support of CDR's priority rehabilitation programme. In order to assist CDR with damage assessment and final project preparation in key sectors, as well as to provide support for the preparation of sector policy and analysis, UNDP agreed in May 1992 to finance interdisciplinary missions in support of the rehabilitation programme. Preparatory assistance was approved for the education sector (outlined below), agriculture and irrigation, and support to displaced persons. It is anticipated that this preparatory assistance will also be extended to industry. Output under this preparatory assistance is to be formulated within the context of a programme approach; it is also expected that that output will comprise important components of the next country programme. In addition, to the extent that this is feasible, the proposed execution modality is to be a national one. Preparatory assistance to review and assess professional training needs for central bank staff has also been agreed to in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), while further consultations have also been held with the Ministry of Finance as well as with the Fund and the World Bank concerning the possible provision of technical assistance for rehabilitation of the Ministry of Finance and building of national capacity in economic management.

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

51. Activities in these sectors during the reporting period were concentrated on initiation of two projects executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): (a) "Rehabilitation of the Ministry of Agriculture" and (b) "Reinforcement of food hygiene control" (for products of animal origin).

Transport and communications

52. The three-year project "Reactivation of civil aviation facilities and services", aimed at reactivating and upgrading damaged and unserviceable civil aviation facilities and services, began activities during the reporting period. This International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)-executed project's emphasis on the training of Lebanon's technical, operational and management personnel and on the updating of rules, regulations and procedures is designed to facilitate the return of Beirut International Airport to internationally accepted standards.

53. The ongoing project "Telecommunications training" continued throughout the reporting period with key training fellowships awarded to civil servants responsible for addressing priority needs in the telecommunications sector.

Education

54. As indicated above, UNDP preparatory assistance has been approved for the rehabilitation of the education sector and modernization of education management. An interdisciplinary UNESCO mission was fielded to Lebanon in May 1992. This mission had a dual focus: (a) initiation of preparations for damage assessment and project preparation with a view to formulating a coherent rehabilitation programme for the sector and (b) a broad review of education policy with emphasis on preparing for the implementation of an education sector study. The latter will be implemented through a national steering committee and specialized working groups with technical guidance and support from UNESCO over a period of one and a half years. This assistance is in direct support of the CDR priority rehabilitation programme.

Humanitarian aid and relief

55. During January to March 1992, particularly bad, prolonged winter snowstorms hit Lebanon, causing tens of villages to be isolated and resulting in considerable loss of life and injuries as well as extensive damage to personal property and agricultural holdings; subsequent melting snow caused flooding and further suffering. In response to a request by the Government for emergency assistance for the victims of this natural disaster, UNDP provided US\$ 50,000 from its Special Programme Resources (SPR). In consultation with the Government (CDR), and with the assistance of the Lebanese Red Cross, the funds were used to purchase and distribute fuel oil to nearly 3,000 families and to clear river beds and canals in different affected regions.

56. In response to the need for national disaster management throughout the 17-year conflict, and in particular in response to the recent snowstorm disaster, the Government agreed to organize a national disaster management workshop within the UNDP/UNDRO-supported Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP). Organization of the national workshop, which is tentatively scheduled to be held in Lebanon in mid-October 1992, is planned with the American University of Beirut (which is the designated regional institution for DMTP) and with the support of the Lebanese Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and a national disaster management team.

Development support services

57. During the reporting period, UNDP's Development Support Services (DSS) financed a study on "Development of the private sector in Lebanon", which reviewed the situation in the private sector and its potential for development. The report identified over 12 project ideas for eventual formulation, a number of which merit close consideration by the Government, as limited technical assistance provided through UNDP or other sources may achieve considerable impact in the short term. In this connection, reference is made particularly to an International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT-funded formulation of a project for the establishment of a trade information centre.

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This mission visited Lebanon during the first quarter of 1992; the project document is presently under consideration by the Government.

Reactivation of activities of the United Nations Population Fund

58. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) project proposals relating to "Population and housing database" and "Midwife training in family planning" have been the subject of review and consideration by the Government, but as yet there is no final agreement on the scope and content of both projects.

United Nations sectoral missions

59. In addition to UNDP programming, UNDP has provided technical and administrative support throughout the reporting period for the facilitation of other United Nations missions. This has been particularly true for missions from agencies and organizations not represented in Lebanon, such as the World Bank, IMF, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

United Nations Relief and Works Agency

60. A full account of UNRWA's current activities in Lebanon will be contained in the annual report of the Commissioner-General to the General Assembly covering the period from 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992. The following is a brief summary of major operations carried out in the period 1 August 1991 to 31 May 1992.

61. With regard to the General Assembly's calling, in its resolution 46/173, upon all organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to take necessary steps to ensure that their offices in Beirut be adequately staffed at a senior level, it should be noted that UNRWA operations continued throughout the years of the Lebanese civil conflict and that senior staff, including international staff, remained on duty in the Lebanon Field Office. Field Office staff were relocated temporarily to Sibliin, near Saida, and Barr Ilyas (Bar Elias) in the Bekaa during periods of heavy fighting in Beirut beginning in April 1989. Staff returned to the Beirut Office in August 1990 and it continues to be fully manned by almost 2,500 staff at all levels, including 9 international staff headed by the Director at the D-1 level.

62. Under normal circumstances, UNRWA provides services only to registered Palestine refugees, who numbered 317,000 in Lebanon as at 31 March 1992. However, in view of the situation prevailing in Lebanon, the Agency has, for several years, extended emergency assistance to the entire Palestinian community. It has also actively participated with other United Nations organizations and international relief organizations in activities to provide assistance to the Lebanese population in general, notably by extending services to needy Lebanese living in proximity to poor Palestinians.

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63. As in its other fields, UNRWA offers educational services to Palestine refugees in Lebanon within the framework of the host country's prescribed curricula and in accordance with the needs, identity and cultural heritage of the Palestine refugees. In the academic year 1991/92, elementary and preparatory education was being provided to almost 34,000 children by 1,063 teachers in 77 schools. Many of the school buildings are in poor condition and there is a general shortage of suitable accommodation. As a result, 40 of the schools operate on a double shift. In addition to schools, the Agency runs a vocational training centre at Sibliin that provides places for more than 600 trainees and is staffed by 70 instructors. Trade and semi-professional courses are offered to young Palestinians to equip them with suitable skills to enter the job market.

64. UNRWA's health programme in Lebanon is primarily community health oriented and comprises curative and preventive medical care services, environmental health services in refugee camps, and a nutrition and supplementary feeding service. When hospital care is required, it is provided through hospitals with which the Agency has contractual arrangements or by reimbursement of costs incurred in government hospitals. Health services are provided through a network of 25 health centres and numerous other clinics providing various forms of treatment. Almost 400 staff are presently employed in the Agency's health programme in Lebanon, including 33 doctors, 97 nurses and 8 dentists.

65. The Agency's relief and social services programme in Lebanon registers refugees, determines eligibility for Agency services, handles emergency relief and facilitates longer-term social and economic improvement to refugees and their communities. Relief to the most destitute is provided through the special hardship case programme under which more than 37,000 persons, comprising approximately 10 per cent of the refugee population, presently receive monthly rations of basic foodstuffs, cash assistance and blankets. Income generation and self-employment are being encouraged by 171 grant-based projects to which almost US\$ 500,000 have been allocated. Plans are presently being made to begin loan-based income generation projects. Assistance to women is provided through nine women's centres in the refugee camps, which offer training to approximately 500 women per year in various trades and crafts. One community-based rehabilitation centre provides assistance to disabled children and there are plans for an additional 12 such centres.

66. The budget for UNRWA's regular programmes for 1992 for Palestinians in Lebanon is US\$ 30 million, of which US\$ 12 million is allocated to education, US\$ 7.6 million to health, US\$ 6.4 million to relief and social services and only US\$ 4 million to common and operational costs. In addition to its regular programme, the Agency is, in 1992, continuing to carry on a programme of extraordinary measures consisting, *inter alia*, of distribution of food and other assistance to the needy and displaced. The budget for extraordinary measures in Lebanon for 1992 is US\$ 2.2 million.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

67. With the relative improvement in the security situation in Lebanon, a number of refugees started visiting the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Beirut asking for material assistance and for solutions to their problems.

68. The refugee population in Lebanon has increased considerably; the case-load comprises 4,000 persons from Middle Eastern and African countries. In addition, there is a group of 1,500 stateless persons.

69. As in previous years, UNHCR assistance was mainly directed towards the most needy and destitute refugees and included medical services, education, counselling, repatriation and, to a lesser extent, resettlement. UNHCR continued to put emphasis on the promotion of local durable solutions such as naturalization and local integration. Its annual programme amounted to some US\$ 270,000 while the special programme amounted to some US\$ 30,000.

70. In previous years the prevailing security situation had not allowed the implementation of some projects in Lebanon. While repairs to the damaged warehouse in the Hamlish school were recently completed, the improvement of an annex building at the Islamic Charity Hospital in Tripoli is still pending. Discussion and negotiation with all concerned parties are progressing and the implementation of the latter project is expected to start in late 1992.

World Food Programme

71. In December 1991, the World Food Programme (WFP) approved US\$ 12.2 million in food assistance to Lebanon for the purpose of continuing for a further period of four years the WFP-assisted ongoing project entitled "Feeding programme for children and youths in institutions and for vulnerable groups in Maternity Child Health-Care (MCH) centres". During the expansion phase WFP food assistance will be distributed all over the country to 118,000 boarders and day students in some 170 social institutions, to 70,000 pregnant and nursing mothers and preschool children in 35 MCH centres and to 13,000 primary-school children in two primary-school canteens. Food assistance is intended to help improve the food intake of beneficiaries while they are receiving academic education and/or vocational training in the social institutions; to increase the coverage, frequency and quality of prenatal and postnatal consultation for expectant and nursing mothers in MCH centres; and to alleviate short-term hunger of primary-school children. The first consignments of WFP food assistance under this project are being delivered to the project authority (Ministry of Health and Social Affairs); commodity distribution will commence with the beginning of the 1992/93 school year.

72. WFP is also considering the request of the Government of Lebanon for WFP food assistance for the rehabilitation of agricultural areas. The total cost to WFP for a five-year project would be approximately US\$ 15 million and would call for the supply of some 32,000 tons of various food items. WFP food

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commodities would be distributed to the beneficiaries as incentive and would help the farmers in the rehabilitation and cultivation of land, including the undertaking of needed soil conservation works in mountainous areas; increase food production in the country; and ease the problem of underemployment. The appraisal is pending confirmation from the national authorities that the rehabilitation of agricultural areas enjoys the highest priority for allocation of WFP food assistance.

United Nations International Drug Control Programme

73. Upon the request of the Lebanese Government, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) undertook a fact-finding mission to Lebanon from 22 to 29 May 1992. The mission had the following specific objectives: to evaluate the extent of the drug problem (illicit traffic and abuse); to assess the status of legal and administrative structures, the existing anti-drug legislation and compliance with the United Nations drug control conventions in the country; to examine police and customs structures in charge of drug control and evaluate existing coordination with the country; to draw up an inventory of needs; and to identify assistance measures to be provided.

74. As a result of the discussions held with the ministries concerned, namely, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance, and the mission's two-day visit to the Bekaa Valley, the following two elements emerged and should be highlighted:

(a) In December 1991, the Lebanese police with the support of the Syrian army started an information campaign aimed at dissuading the farmers in the Bekaa Valley from planting opium poppy seeds, then in March 1991 proceeded to eradicate the illicit crops cultivated over a surface estimated at 600 hectares. The mission reported the complete eradication of illicit crops in the Bekaa valley as the result of a decision taken by the Lebanese Government. Under these new circumstances, and owing to the economic problems that the inhabitants of the area are facing, the development of an integrated programme is greatly needed;

(b) Illicit drug trafficking, particularly in heroin and cocaine, from Lebanon to Western Europe and the Arab peninsula, remains a serious problem that should be addressed during this reconstruction period in Lebanon. Specific efforts should be made to reinforce all drug-combating structures in the country in their fight against drugs.

International Labour Organisation

75. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) conducted various seminars and granted fellowships (disbursements in parentheses) as follows:

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- (a) National seminar on social security reform, organized with the General Confederation of Trade Unions in August 1991 (US\$ 12,000);
- (b) National seminar on education in Lebanon, organized with the General Confederation of Trade Unions in October 1991 (US\$ 13,000);
- (c) Fellowship for participation in the training course on management of vocational training institutions held at the Turin centre in November-December 1991 (US\$ 6,000);
- (d) Two fellowships, one each for employers' and workers' organizations, for participation in the ILO regional seminar on the role of employers' and workers' organizations in the training and employment of disabled persons, in September 1991 (US\$ 6,000);
- (e) Two fellowships for participation in the interregional seminar on reintegration of migrant workers and organization of migration flows, in April 1992, organized within the framework of the ILO/UNDP regional project "Support to migration policies" (US\$ 3,000);
- (f) Advisory mission undertaken by the regional adviser on workers' activities in September 1991 (US\$ 6,000);
- (g) Advisory mission on the occasion of the inauguration of the Centre for Human Rights, Jinane University, in November 1991 (US\$ 6,000).

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

76. The current Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) programme in Lebanon is supported by three funding sources, namely: the FAO regular programme, UNDP and Trust Funds.

77. Five regular programme (Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)) projects are now operational: a study for the rehabilitation of irrigation in the coastal area of Jbeil (cost US\$ 121,000), the reinforcement of the operational and technical capacity of the farmers of Tel Amara (cost US\$ 327,000), the urgent provision of potato seeds to the smallholders of the Bekaa Valley (cost US\$ 315,000); the feasibility study for the rehabilitation of silos of Beirut (cost US\$ 15,500) and the assistance to reforestation (US\$ 133,000). The ongoing TCP programme has a total cost of US\$ 912,000.

78. The Programme on Food Losses (PFL) project for the rehabilitation of the silo port of Beirut was approved in July 1991 at a value of US\$ 513,000 for provision of spare parts to physically rehabilitate the infrastructures. The project will be completed shortly.

79. The FAO Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) regularly monitors the crop and food supply situation in Lebanon. FAO assessments continue to be published in the System's monthly

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report, "Food crops and shortages", in order, inter alia, to assist donor countries with decisions concerning the provision of food aid. Production of cereals in 1991 was slightly lower than in the previous year, but still above average. However, domestic production of cereals covers less than 10 per cent of total requirements. With the cessation of civil strife, the socio-economic situation has improved, but large sections of the population still need relief and rehabilitation assistance.

80. Finally, a series of workshops were organized by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture under the FAO regular programme on the rational management and use of water for irrigation, agricultural extension and cooperatives. The purpose and objective of the workshops included strengthening of the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture in institution building.

81. Under UNDP funding, five projects were completed in 1991 and three new projects were approved in 1991 and 1992. They total US\$ 1.5 million in value and include agricultural documentation, seed production, rehabilitation of the Ministry of Agriculture, aquaculture and hygiene control of foodstuffs of animal origin. All projects are executed by national directors and consultants under the supervision of the FAO representative.

82. Other new projects are under review by UNDP following the recent United Nations Inter-Agency Needs Assessment Mission for Lebanon for the assessment of immediate needs for the reconstruction of Lebanon. It is expected that a new project on olive culture improvement will be approved shortly with a budget of US\$ 528,500. FAO, through an inter-agency letter of agreement, is providing expertise in the agricultural section under an Office for Project Services (OPS)-executed project (LEB/92/001 - Preparatory Assistance) entitled "Support to Priority Rehabilitation Programme".

83. A Trust Fund project in the field of agricultural planning has been extended through the end of 1992, with a total budget of US\$ 740,000. The project is presently funding several consultancy missions, inter alia, on agricultural credit, water resources and silkworms. Another Trust Fund project is under approval for the rehabilitation of the Ministry of Agriculture (US\$ 155,000). A third project designed to assist small-scale farmers in their efforts to achieve a satisfactory potato seed production level is terminating. The balance of the budget (US\$ 186,000) will be used through a Trust Fund agreement for the rehabilitation of the Tel Amara research station in the Bekaa Valley.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

84. In May 1991, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized an intersectoral mission to assess basic needs in the fields of education and the cultural heritage, and participated in the inter-agency mission that was carried out in July 1991 (combined cost of these missions: US\$ 50,000). As emergency aid, UNESCO made two grants of

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US\$ 25,000, one to launch in-service training courses for school principals and the other to assist the Department of Antiquities. In the field of education, technical education and institutional reinforcement projects have been prepared and are expected to be continued (estimated cost: US\$ 15,000), while a project designed to provide equipment for laboratories in secondary schools (funded by the Islamic Development Bank: US\$ 10 million) has entered its implementation phase. The Director-General and the Lebanese Minister of Education met and agreed on a global cooperation programme under which UNESCO and the Lebanese Government will work together to rebuild the National Museum, reactivate the agreement concerning the International Centre for the Humanities and Development at Byblos, create an institute of marine sciences and protect historic and archaeologic sites, particularly Tyre. At the same time, UNESCO will intensify its cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

85. Based on the findings of its previous missions, UNESCO, in September 1991, sent to Lebanon a joint mission with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to identify the needs of the Ministry of Education and Fine Arts in information management and thereby provide that Ministry with the ability to manage reconstruction efforts in the sector (cost US\$ 10,000). The UNDP Office in Beirut subsequently approved a preparatory assistance for project formulation in education and training (US\$ 150,000). This preparatory assistance was implemented in May-June 1992 and rehabilitation projects were formulated in the fields of teacher training, institutional building in the Ministry of Education and Fine Arts, and technical and vocational education.

86. In October 1991, the Council for Reconstruction and Development (CDR) signed an aide-mémoire with UNESCO through which UNESCO would advise CDR on the historical and archaeologic aspects of the reconstruction of the Central District of Beirut and on the reconstruction and development of the National Museum of Beirut. CDR and UNDP have agreed to allocate funds (estimated at US\$ 1 million in a first phase) to these activities, which are expected to begin in summer 1992. Meanwhile, UNESCO managed to secure on a voluntary contribution basis the services of a Lebanese specialized company to provide waterproofing in the building of the Museum (US\$ 100,000). The Direction générale des antiquités will receive technical assistance on a UNESCO/UNDP project to enable it to carry out its activities and more particularly on work related to the Central District of Beirut, the National Museum and the archaeologic site of Tyre. Cooperation is also taking place with the Municipality of the City of Saïda for the protection and revitalization of its Old City.

87. In February 1992, UNESCO organized in Paris an international meeting of specialists to revise the concept of the International Centre for the Humanities and Development at Byblos (US\$ 20,000). The recommendations have been submitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs for comments and eventual approval. Several other missions took place over the period to advise in such fields as education, ecology, marine sciences and the rehabilitation of the Lebanese Council for Scientific Research (US\$ 30,000). UNESCO cooperates also in the protection of the cedars forest of Lebanon and will, at UNDP's request, prepare a master plan for the monitoring of natural resources and environment

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in Lebanon (US\$ 60,000). Furthermore, at the request of the Council for Development and Reconstruction, UNESCO is cooperating with the UNDP Office in Beirut to prepare a Transfer of Know-how Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) project for Lebanon.

88. The Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO received assistance through the Participation Programme for activities in education and culture (estimated at US\$ 40,000).

89. An inter-university cooperation (UNITWIN) project to assist the restructuring of Lebanese universities is being undertaken by UNESCO and the Association des universités partiellement ou entièrement de langue française (AUPELF) (non-governmental organization in consultative status with UNESCO, category A).

World Health Organization

90. The World Health Organization/Eastern Mediterranean Region (WHO/EMRO) supported Lebanon from its regular budget as described below.

Health situation and trend assessment strengthening of epidemiological services

91. Within the context of implementation of primary health care in the country, support was provided for the development of the system of data collection from primary health care units and the methodology of translating data from those units into the national health statistical data.

Managerial process for national health development

92. Support was given to collaboration in the reorganization of the Ministry of Health, as well as to the development of a national strategy for rehabilitation of health services.

Organization of the health systems based on primary health care

93. Support was given to the development of primary health care at the district level and integration of services, including training of district medical officers, development of curricula for community health workers, training of supervisors and provision of supplies and equipment.

Control of environmental health hazards

94. Short-term consultants were provided to undertake:

(a) Comprehensive assessment of all aspects of environmental health problems in the country and the activities in progress in the various sectors;

(b) Preparation of a plan and proposals for addressing all aspects of environmental health and safety in areas including water-supply, sanitation, waste disposal and food.

Health laboratory services

95. Support was provided for rehabilitation of the Central Health Laboratory and the regional laboratories.

Essential drugs

96. Collaboration was provided for completion of the essential drugs list and training for its use as well as for strengthening of the Drugs Quality Control Laboratory.

Expanded programme on immunization

97. Support was provided for provision of solar refrigerators and training of technicians for their installation and use.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) control

98. Support was provided for the development of a national programme for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) control. This included training of doctors and nurses as well as provision for safety of blood transfusion; training of technicians; and provision of test kits.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

99. As a follow-up to United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) participation in the United Nations Inter-Agency Needs Assessment Mission to Lebanon, in July 1991, UNIDO fielded a mission in December 1991 to discuss possibilities and modalities of cooperation and further elaboration of project ideas with representatives of Lebanon's CDR and of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries.

100. The following project ideas in line with the integrated programme for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of Lebanon's industrial sector have been identified and submitted to CDR for consideration: (a) industrial survey, (b) establishment of an industrial information centre, (c) product adaptation for export promotion to European Community countries; (d) rehabilitation of the Industry Institute, (e) identification of industrial investment projects, (f) establishment of an industrial development bank, (g) advisory services for energy conservation in industry and (h) technical assistance for the rehabilitation of the Tripoli Oil Installation Refinery.

101. Upon request of the Government, UNIDO will field a project formulation mission for the preparation of project documents for the above-mentioned project ideas.

102. Within umbrella project LEB/92/001: Rehabilitation programme for industry, UNIDO is prepared to provide two specialists on industrial management and services and industrial finance respectively.

103. Moreover, in the context of the memorandum of understanding signed in March 1992 between the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and CDR, the UNIDO Regional Adviser attached to ESCWA has been entrusted with the responsibility for elaborating a work plan for the implementation of the identified project ideas with focus on the assessment of the status of the industrial sector (industrial survey and planning of industrial estates). In particular, the industrial survey is expected to be undertaken in coordination with UNIDO.

World Bank

104. Around September 1991, the World Bank began working with CDR, the Government institution in charge of the preparation of the reconstruction programme, and its consultants in various aspects of the preparation of the reconstruction programme for Lebanon. In October/November 1991, a World Bank/UNDP mission visited Lebanon to make a preliminary assessment of the economic situation and to identify pressing rehabilitation requirements and technical assistance needs in four selected priority sectors:

(a) electricity, (b) telecommunications, (c) water, waste water and solid waste and (d) housing. The mission's report, "Recent economic developments and emergency rehabilitation and technical assistance needs in selected priority sectors" of 3 December 1991, provided documentation for purposes of an Aid Coordination Meeting that was convened under the chairmanship of the Bank in Paris on 12 December 1991.

105. An economic mission visited Lebanon in February 1992 with a view to assessing the economic situation and prospects but had to be withdrawn because of the worsening security situation that led to a temporary United Nations ban on travel to Lebanon. A Bank emergency reconstruction project identification mission that had been scheduled to visit Lebanon during the same month could not proceed as planned in view of that ban. The economic mission returned to Lebanon in April 1992 and is currently preparing its report. A technical assistance mission visited Lebanon in the same month to collaborate with UNDP and CDR in the preparation of a possible technical assistance secretariat and a possible technical assistance facility. A project identification mission arrived in Lebanon in early May 1992 but had to be withdrawn because of the worsening security situation during the second week of May.

106. In spite of the delays caused by the interruption of the mission's work, the World Bank is continuing to work with CDR on the preparation of the reconstruction programme and a possible Bank project. World Bank staff are currently reviewing the damage assessment studies that have been prepared by CDR with the help of consultants financed by the European Community (EEC), and is in close contact with CDR on other aspects of the preparation of the reconstruction programme.

107. The Bank has also indicated to the Lebanese authorities that it stands ready to convene a consultative group meeting at the most appropriate time.

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International Monetary Fund

108. International Monetary Fund (IMF) technical assistance and activities during the period under review consisted of the following:

<u>Date (place)</u>	<u>IMF constituent</u>	<u>Activity/purpose</u>
15-23 November 1991 (Beirut)	Middle East Department (MED) mission	Review of recent developments and preparation for Aid Coordination Meeting
9-11 December 1991 (Paris)	Central Banking Department (CED) staff	Technical advice on organizational and monetary management issues for the central bank
12 December 1991 (Paris)	MED Director	IMF statement for Aid Coordination Meeting
16-31 March 1992 (Beirut)	Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD)	Technical assistance on tax mission system and revenue-raising measures
3-7 May 1992 (Beirut)	MED mission	Assistance in formulating macroeconomic framework and preparation for consultative group meeting

IV. CONCLUSIONS

109. The Secretary-General is fully aware of the urgent need to mobilize international support for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. The Secretary-General recognizes the catalytic role that the United Nations and the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system can play in the planning and mobilization of resources for the rehabilitation of Lebanon.

110. During the past year a Resident Coordinator has been appointed. Other agencies and programmes of the United Nations system have upgraded and expanded their presence in Beirut. There has been excellent cooperation and coordination among the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system under the leadership of the United Nations/UNARDOL Resident Coordinator.

111. In conformity with the priorities of the Lebanese Government, United Nations activities will increasingly focus on institution building and human development. Humanitarian assistance activities have continued but at a lower level than in preceding years. Emphasis has also been placed on relations with the donor community. The increased interest and support of the donor

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community has been noted and is essential for the successful reconstruction of Lebanon.

112. The economic recovery of Lebanon, well under way during the second half of 1991, slowed in early 1992. Furthermore, national security remains a fundamental prerequisite for the creation of an economic and social environment conducive to reconstruction and development. The promotion of peace and stability in the region can only give impetus to efforts of the Government of Lebanon to put aside the legacy of the past 17 years and move forward with the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country.

113. The Secretary-General is proceeding with the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/61 and General Assembly resolution 46/173. Financial support to the Secretary-General's Trust Fund for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon would allow greater assistance to be provided to Lebanon in order to meet its pressing and urgent need for reconstruction and development.



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Economic and Social Council

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Items 79 and 85 of the
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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1992
Agenda item 11
REGIONAL COOPERATION

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of
Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Summit Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation, signed at Istanbul by the heads of State or Government of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine on 25 June 1992 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would kindly have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 79 and 85 of the preliminary list, and of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992, under agenda item 11.

(Signed) Mustafa AKSIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Summit Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation

The heads of State or Government of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine,

1. Taking into account the profound and rapid changes in Europe and the determination of the peoples of the continent to shape a new era of peace and security on the basis of the principles laid down in the Helsinki Final Act and the follow-up documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and particularly in the Charter of Paris for a new Europe;

2. Recognizing that a prosperous and united Europe will evolve on shared values, such as democracy based on human rights and fundamental freedoms, prosperity through economic liberty and social justice, and equal security for all our countries;

3. Taking into consideration the potential of the participating States and the opportunities for enhancing the mutually advantageous economic cooperation arising from their geographic proximity and from the reform process and structural adjustments;

4. Conscious of the importance of the environmental problems of the Black Sea for the well-being of their peoples and recognizing that it is vital to ensure the environmental sustainability of their economic development;

5. Confirm the intention to develop economic cooperation as a contribution to the CSCE process, to the establishment of a Europe-wide economic area, as well as to the achievement of a higher degree of integration of the participating States into the world economy;

6. Share the common objectives to achieve the further development and diversification of both bilateral and multilateral cooperation among them as well as with other interested countries, to foster their economic, technological and social progress and to encourage free enterprise;

7. Agree that their economic cooperation will be developed in a manner not contravening their obligations and not preventing the promotion of the relations of the participating States with third parties, including international organizations, as well as the European Communities and the cooperation within the regional initiatives;

8. Aim to ensure that the Black Sea becomes a sea of peace, stability and prosperity, thriving to promote friendly and good-neighbourly relations;

9. Declare that the economic cooperation among the participating States will be developed on the basis of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the decisions in the subsequent CSCE documents, as well as of the other universally recognized principles of international law;

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10. Agree that the economic cooperation will be promoted gradually and, while determining the priorities in this process, they will take into account the specific economic conditions, interests and concerns of the countries involved, and particularly the problems of the countries in transition to a market economy;

11. Affirm that the whole economic cooperation among their countries is open for the participation of other interested States, recognizing the provisions of this document. As regards projects of common interest, individual countries, their economic and financial institutions, enterprises and firms, as well as regional and international economic and financial institutions, could be involved in their realization;

12. Decide to develop comprehensive multilateral and bilateral Black Sea economic cooperation, covering the various fields of activity as specified below;

13. Affirming their determination to make best use of all possibilities and opportunities for expanding and multiplying their cooperation in the fields of economics, including trade and industrial cooperation, of science and technology and of the environment, the participating States declare that they will take from now on concrete steps in this process by identifying, developing and carrying out, with the participation of their competent organizations, enterprises and firms, projects of common interest, inter alia, in the following areas:

- (a) Transport and communications, including their infrastructure;
- (b) Informatics;
- (c) Exchange of economic and commercial information, including statistics;
- (d) Standardization and certification of products;
- (e) Energy;
- (f) Mining and processing of mineral raw materials;
- (g) Tourism;
- (h) Agriculture and agro-industries;
- (i) Veterinary and sanitary protection;
- (j) Health care and pharmaceuticals;
- (k) Science and technology;

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14. In order to promote their cooperation, the participating States will act to improve the business environment and to stimulate individual and collective initiative of the enterprises and firms directly involved, mainly by:

(a) Facilitating, via bilateral negotiations, the prompt entry, stay and free movement of businessmen in their respective territories and encouraging direct contacts among enterprises and firms;

(b) Providing support for small- and medium-sized enterprises;

(c) Contributing to the expansion of their mutual trade in goods and services and ensuring conditions favourable to such development by continuing their efforts to reduce further or progressively eliminate obstacles of all kinds, in a manner not contravening their obligations towards third parties;

(d) Ensuring appropriate conditions for investment, capital flows and different forms of industrial cooperation, notably by concluding and putting into effect, in the near future, agreements on the avoidance of double taxation and on the promotion and protection of investments;

(e) Encouraging the exchange of information on international tenders organized in the participating States so as to give the opportunity to their enterprises and firms to participate therein, in accordance with the national rules and practices;

(f) Encouraging cooperation in free economic zones;

15. The participating States will take appropriate steps, including by promoting joint projects, for the protection of the environment, particularly the preservation and the improvement of the environment of the Black Sea, and the conservation, exploitation and development of its bio-productive potential;

16. The participating States will consider or encourage the conclusion of appropriate credit and financial arrangements at the governmental and non-governmental level and will seek to mobilize funds, including through international institutions and third parties, for the purpose of expanding their mutual economic and commercial cooperation and implementing specific projects of common interest in the Black Sea area. In this context, they will consider the possibilities and the ways of establishing a "Black Sea Foreign Trade and Investment Bank".

17. Meetings of the Foreign Ministers of the participating States will be convened regularly on a rotation basis, at least once a year, to review progress and to define new targets. By common understanding, ad hoc and permanent working groups of experts are to be set up to propose the necessary arrangements concerning the cooperation in different fields. The participating States consider that, at this stage of their cooperation, it is necessary to ensure institutional flexibility. Representatives of the business community should be invited to this process so as to benefit from their practical experience;

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18. Those States which commit themselves to the observance of the provisions of the present document can join, with the approval of the participating States, the whole process of cooperation; organizations, enterprises and firms of third parties will also be given the possibility of indicating their interest in projects of common interest and, in case of agreement, of taking part in their implementation. Regional and international economic and financial institutions may also contribute in the carrying out of these projects.

Sali BERISHA
President of the Republic of Albania

Levon TER-PETROSYAN
President of the Republic of Armenia

Ebulfaz ELCHIBAY
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Jelyu JELEV
President of the Republic of Bulgaria

Eduard SHEVARDNADZE
President of the State Council of Georgia

Constantin MITSOTAKIS
Prime Minister of the Republic of Greece

Mircea SNEGUR
President of the Republic of Moldova

Ion ILIESCU
President of the Republic of Romania

Boris YELTSIN
President of the Russian Federation

Süleyman DEMIREL
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

Leonid KRAVCHUK
President of Ukraine



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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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Agenda item 12
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative
of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the texts in English and French of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women (see annex), adopted at the Summit on the economic advancement of rural women, which was held at Geneva on 25 and 26 February 1992.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex published as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 79 of the preliminary list, and of the substantive session of 1992 of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda item 12.

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Belgium to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

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ANNEX

The Geneva Declaration for Rural Women,
adopted at the Summit on the economic advancement of rural women
(Geneva, 25 and 26 February 1992)

PREAMBLE

1. We, the wives of Heads of State or Government from Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania, have gathered here to express our solidarity with the rural women of the world. By expressing our solidarity, we are determined to raise the awareness of decision-makers, at the national, regional and international levels, of the condition of rural women. We declare our commitment to their social and economic advancement and, thereby, to the enhancement of the well-being of the rural family and to equitable, sustainable development.
2. We recognize the importance and value of rural women's contribution to democracy and socio-economic development. We also recognise that in many developing countries, women constitute more than 50% of the rural population and up to 50%-70% of the agricultural labour force. Without their effective participation neither democracy nor development can be sustained. It is therefore necessary that rural women's multiple contributions to the family, to democracy and to development be acknowledged and properly valued. The undervaluing of rural women's contribution to development and their under-representation in decision-making have increased their marginalization.
3. We believe that the current global movement towards democracy will help to change social and political attitudes towards women and their access to and control over resources, while creating conditions under which rural women themselves will be more aware of their own self-image and rights. Therefore, we declare our resolve to play a decisive role in the democratization of our political systems, from grassroots to national level.
4. Rural women the world over are an integral and vital force in the development processes that are the key to socio-economic progress. Rural women include farmers, wage workers, petty traders, artisans, industrial home workers, micro-producers and domestic servants. They form the backbone of the agricultural labour force across much of the developing world and produce 35%-45% of Gross Domestic Product and well over 50% of the developing world's food. Yet, over half a billion rural women are poor and lack access to resources and markets. In fact, the number is estimated to have increased by 50% over the past 20 years and today they outnumber poor men.
5. Among the factors that have contributed to the intensification of poverty over the last decade are: on-going economic crises in the developing world due to deteriorating terms of trade, the debt crisis, inefficient allocation of government expenditures, capital flight, the social costs of adjustment, political instability, recession in the developed world, environmental degradation and demographic pressure. Women's poverty has also been aggravated for a variety of reasons, among which are changes in

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household and family structures leading to a growing number of female-headed households and to a weakening of household survival strategies. In many developing countries today, more than one-third of rural households are headed by a female.

6. Poverty intensifies the constraints under which women struggle to survive and carry out their responsibility to provide family and national food security.

7. The lack of support for women's economic activities, and particularly for those of the poorest, is not simply a women's issue. It is a general development problem which must be addressed, because gender equality, poverty reduction and development are inextricably linked.

8. Up to 90% of rural women in developing countries rely on the land for their livelihood. They are the main providers of water and fuelwood and are responsible for the health of their families. Rural women are vulnerable to environmental degradation and the diminution of natural resources, and they cannot always rely on the sustained use of resources when these are under pressure. It is important to consider, as a priority, training strategies for rural women on alternative technologies for domestic fuels. Furthermore, recognizing that rural women are central to sustaining the resource base and that they are often at the forefront of popular movements to protect the environment, development interventions must draw upon their traditional knowledge and experience of environmental conservation.

9. Building on the Mexico and the Copenhagen Declarations, the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development of African Women, and in view of the forthcoming 1995 Fourth United Nations Conference on Women, we women around the world are determined to arouse public opinion and mobilize all necessary political will and resources in order to transform the status and quality of life of rural women and their families.

10. In this context, we take note of the plans of action and the specific guidelines developed by a number of United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations for the advancement of rural women in accordance with their own mandates.

11. Rural women's social and economic advancement has to be promoted within the framework of national plans for social and economic development. In this process close cooperation and partnership between men and women is essential. This cooperation must be strengthened at all levels of development intervention by making public opinion and policy-makers and implementers aware of the importance of the multiple roles of women.

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● OBJECTIVES ●

12. In their operational strategies and action programmes, many national governments, development organizations and international financial institutions address the problem of women in general, without specifically focusing on rural women. We urge that future strategies and actions have as their primary focus the condition of rural women, especially the poorest. The objectives of such efforts should be to:

- (i) Mobilize political will at the national and international levels in order to target rural women as participants and direct beneficiaries of all development policies, programmes and projects.
- (ii) Ensure that the economic needs and well-being of rural women are taken account of in all sectoral policies and programmes by bringing into sharp focus the role of women in household, productive and community work, in the design of development interventions and the adequate allocation of resources.
- (iii) Improve rural women's access to resources through alternative policy instruments that ensure more equitable gender-based distribution of land, labour, capital, technology, social services and infrastructure.
- (iv) Launch initiatives essential for raising the productive capacities of both men and women, with special attention to rural women from disadvantaged households, female-headed households, young rural women, disabled women, and migrant and displaced women.
- (v) Promote national and household food security by supporting the critical role of women in food production and income generation.
- (vi) Alleviate women's heavy workload, which often involves long hours spent daily gathering fuel, collecting water, producing and preparing food, maintaining their homes, nurturing their children and, in addition, earning incomes that are essential to the survival of their families.
- (vii) Improve the health and nutritional status of mothers and their children and thereby the quality of life of the family.
- (viii) Reorient the information, communication and educational systems so that they meet the specific needs of rural women while preserving and promoting their cultural identity.
- (ix) Optimize the role of rural women as agents of change, and create conditions for their social, political and economic empowerment.

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- (x) Create opportunities for rural women to assume leadership positions in the decision-making process.
- (xi) Promote, strengthen and disseminate rural women's organizations in order to establish effective channels for their access to decision-making bodies at all levels.
- (xii) Develop a constructive partnership between men and women in rural areas, based on social mobilization and an enhanced understanding of women's multiple roles and economic needs.

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● STRATEGIES ●

13. In order to achieve measurable progress in the economic advancement of rural women and improve the welfare of rural families around the world, with particular focus on the poorest, we define and recommend the following strategies, recognizing that full political commitment is a precondition for their successful implementation:

- (i) Governments, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector agencies, United Nations agencies and other donor agencies should allocate greater resources to promote the economic and social advancement of rural women.
- (ii) Rural women should be invited to participate in the formulation of development plans and policies which affect their well-being. Project design teams should include representatives of rural women to ensure that they benefit equitably from development.
- (iii) New legislation and institutional procedures should be introduced and/or the existing ones reformed in order to ensure that rural women have equitable and sustainable access to productive resources. Similar measures should be taken to ensure that women have equity in inheritance, marriage, divorce and child custody. Also, legal and administrative measures should be taken to protect rural women from exploitation in the labour, capital and product markets. They must be assured of equal pay for equal work. with due regard
for different legal
systems.
- (iv) Mechanisms must be established, with adequate resource support, to provide gender-analysis training to policy-makers, development practitioners and field workers and to collect and analyse local, national, and regional data. These will assist policy-makers and project designers in assessing the socio-economic condition of rural women so that they can target development interventions at the disadvantaged groups and design indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of projects. This action is recommended in view of the fact that data reflecting the economic and social significance of rural women's work, disaggregated by gender and income levels, are scarce. Even where they exist, they rarely appear in the government statistics used to formulate policies and develop programmes, largely because the economic value of much of women's work is not properly measured.
- (v) Similar mechanisms should be in place to make information available to rural women on a wide range of subjects relevant to their needs and constraints. All rural women must have secure access to information in areas that they consider of most importance and they should be made aware of their rights as well as of the resources, technology,

production, social services, market opportunities and credit available to them. Women should also be given access to training in communication techniques so that they can produce and circulate their own information materials as needed. The mass media such as newspapers, radio, television and films should have special space and time allocated for programmes for rural women in which they would not only be the focus but could also express their views.

- (vi) Existing land legislation should be reviewed so that rural women are not discriminated against in gaining access to land. Institutions should be set up to promote a more equitable distribution of land, and to ensure the security of women's access to land of good quality. Women should be considered as direct beneficiaries of agrarian reform or settlement programmes and land property titles should be registered under the name of women tenants as well as men. Mechanisms should also be in place to reduce women's vulnerability to loss of land in cases of divorce, separation and widowhood. Support should be mobilized to protect individual and communal landholdings, and natural resources from environmental damage.
- (vii) Policy and resource support should be provided to strengthen programmes and projects which raise rural women's non-agricultural self-employment and improve their access to micro-enterprises. A network of rural women's enterprises should be established to facilitate entry into large-scale outlets and marketing organizations.
- (viii) Rural women's access to credit and financial services should be improved, on the basis of gender equality, by encouraging financial institutions to create new procedures for reaching rural beneficiaries and promoting community groups that will provide a local structure for improving rural women's access to information, training and guarantees, so that credit can be readily made available to them.
- (ix) National, regional and international research institutions should reorient their programmes to address the problems of rural women, particularly in areas of technology for alternative energy sources and improved productivity and time-saving for women, keeping in view the requirements of health and safety. Rural women should also have full access to modern institutions and technology. Priority should be given to infrastructure development to improve women's access to water, fuel, and health, education and extension services.
- (x) Rural women have extensive knowledge of indigenous food crops, plants, animals, farming methods and ecosystems. Therefore, they should be involved in the discussions about what technologies and other resources they need. National extension systems should be reoriented in order to disseminate appropriate technologies for women. To make extension services more effective, the curriculum for extension workers should include gender sensitization. The number of women extension workers should be increased and local women trained as extension workers. The language of extension should be accessible to rural women. Strong links should be established between researchers, women farmers and extension workers.

- (xi) Facilities for women's education and functional literacy should be strengthened, and access to these made easier for rural women. They should be included in training programmes, in the use of appropriate agricultural techniques and in natural resource management. Women should get priority in the training of trainers.
- (xii) Conditions should be created to ensure that rural girls and young women receive at least primary and secondary education, health and vocational training and support to enhance the quality of their lives.
- (xiii) Rural women, especially those from disadvantaged households, must be included in training programmes and non-formal education of all types, and given preferential access to fellowships and scholarships.
- (xiv) Parents and community leaders should be sensitized and child marriages discouraged, so that boys and girls are given equal opportunity in education and training.
- (xv) Adequate resources should be allocated to maintain and improve social services in the areas of education, health, family planning, nutrition and recreation. These are essential to the well-being of rural families and complementary to rural men's and women's productive capacity.

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● IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP ●

14. The objectives of this Declaration can be realized only if the strategies outlined are implemented and followed up. To this end:

- (i) We welcome the fact that many United Nations agencies have established policies and guidelines concerning their approach to the needs of rural women. We urge that such guidelines be revised, as appropriate, in recognition of the concerns which we have expressed in this Declaration.
- (ii) We request all governments to do their utmost to formulate specific plans of action for the advancement of rural women outlining policies, projects and programmes. These plans of action should include a detailed assessment of the resources required and specify institutional responsibilities for mobilizing resources, implementing programmes, and monitoring and evaluation.
- (iii) We urge the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions to aid national governments in mobilizing resources for financial and technical assistance, to facilitate the exchange of country/project experiences and to establish a regional apparatus for monitoring the progress of implementation of this Declaration.
- (iv) We urge multilateral and bilateral funding agencies and non-governmental organizations substantially to increase their allocation of resources to projects and programmes which fully take into account the specific and individual needs of women, especially in rural areas. In addition, all financing and technical assistance agencies are urged to ensure that the projects they support become increasingly sensitive to issues of poverty and gender. We also urge them to ensure that project monitoring systems maintain gender- and income-specific data on targets and achievements. All food agencies, international financial institutions and other interested inter-governmental bodies should seek to reinforce existing mechanisms so as to improve coordination of their activities to implement the recommendations of this Declaration.
- (v) We appeal to all governments that have already signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and other United Nations resolutions pertaining to rural women to implement them fully, and urge governments which have not done so to ratify the Convention.
- (vi) We appeal to all governments and regional and international organizations to report to the 1995 Fourth United Nations Conference on Women on quantifiable progress in implementing policies and

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programmes with significant positive impact on the economic and social well-being of rural women and their families.

- (vii) We recognize that within the context of international cooperation (i.e., North-South and South-South relations) the rural women of our countries represent a potent political force. This force can be utilized to strengthen and consolidate international cooperation in all its forms. We regard the initiative of this Summit as a step towards the building of bridges between rural women across continents - making a contribution to a new form of international cooperation - which will have a significant impact on global development, peace and harmony. We call on the international community to support this initiative, as provided for in Resolution E/1991/64, dated 26 July 1991, of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), which reflects the spirit and content of this Declaration in policies and programmes at all levels.
 - (viii) We declare that we remain fully committed to the realization of the aspirations of rural women as reflected in this Declaration. We will continue to work together in the coming years to mobilize political and financial resources and to establish enduring procedures globally, regionally and nationally to monitor the implementation of the Declaration.
 - (ix) Finally, we hereby resolve to establish at the global level a committee of representatives of the wives of Heads of State or Government with three members from each continent. This group will meet biennially to review the progress of implementation and to support national and regional initiatives for the advancement of rural women.
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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Preliminary triennial comprehensive policy review of
operational activities of the United Nations system

Note by the Secretariat

1. By resolution 46/219 of 20 December 1991, the General Assembly defined the subjects for the 1992 triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system. Reports were requested containing assessments of and recommendations on the reforms initiated by the Assembly in resolution 44/211 of 22 December 1989. Reports were also requested on such issues as the role of operational activities in science and technology and in human development, as well as on comprehensive training strategies. In response, an integrated and comprehensive methodology was developed to cover all elements of Assembly resolution 46/219 in a single report.

2. A central focus of the preparation of the report was to obtain a field perspective on the implementation of Assembly resolution 44/211 and on future requirements. Particular attention was given to obtaining an assessment by recipient countries of the state of current reforms of operational activities and of future needs. The method used involved field missions to 12 countries by four expert missions between 8 February and 11 March 1992. The missions were headed by experienced senior persons and included some agency representatives. On the basis of a common set of questions, detailed discussions were held with government authorities, resident coordinators, representatives of other United Nations organizations, including international financial institutions, and bilateral donors in the countries. The process also involved the analysis of over 100 responses to questionnaires sent to all the United Nations resident coordinators and through them to the other country representatives of United Nations organizations. Over 70 responses to a set

of questions sent to Governments of both developing and developed countries were analysed as well. These responses provided a comprehensive overview of the positions of Governments on the implementation of Assembly resolution 44/211 and on future directions.

3. The organizations of the United Nations system were consulted through a questionnaire, as well as directly, and through discussions within the framework of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. All this information is being condensed and analysed and will form the basis for the elaboration of conclusions and recommendations for consideration by Member States at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

4. In accordance with Assembly resolution 46/219, the assessment carried out so far has focused on the following subjects:

(a) Assistance in the development of national strategies; experience with a national programme framework and collaborative programming; progress towards a programme approach; harmonization and adaptation of programming cycles; programme performance, audit and evaluation. In accordance with paragraph 17 (e) of Assembly resolution 44/211, a special study was undertaken on the question of the integration of multilateral non-emergency food aid with national programmes;

(b) Utilization and strengthening of national capacities, including the requirements for a comprehensive approach to capacity-building that utilized comprehensive training, national execution and other methods;

(c) National execution, with a special focus on the current pace of implementation of this mode of execution and on areas requiring further action;

(d) The resident coordinator system, taking into account the varying conditions under which the system operates, and recent developments with respect to the nomination process and the more effective functioning of the system, including a more coherent field presence of the United Nations system;

(e) Decentralization within the context of recent decisions of intergovernmental bodies, and the requirements for enhancing national involvement at key stages of programmes and projects;

(f) The role of operational activities in science and technology (para. 26 of the resolution);

(g) The role of operational activities in human development (para. 27);

(h) Training support in operational activities (para. 15);

(i) Common premises and shared facilities in developing countries (para. 25);

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(j) Trends in resources (information on which is to be contained in an addendum to the report);

(k) Procurement issues (para. 28 of the resolution).

5. In order to do justice to the subject-matter and the significant amount of information collected, further reflection and analysis are required. It has therefore not been possible for the Secretariat to complete the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities in time for the substantive session of 1992 of the Economic and Social Commission. In addition, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/219 and important developments that have taken place in the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and other forums during the first half of the year need to be taken into account in finalizing the report for consideration by the General Assembly. The transfer of responsibility for the preparation of the report from the former Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to the new Department of Economic and Social Development has been an additional factor.

6. While a preliminary draft of the report has been prepared, the Secretary-General is of the view that considerable additional work is necessary to finalize it for submission to intergovernmental bodies. In spite of time constraints, every effort will be made to reflect in the report the outcome of the Council's consideration of relevant items on the agenda of its substantive session of 1992, particularly its review of the role of the United Nations system in the 1990s and its discussions on issues relating to the governance and financing of operational activities.



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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Post-United Nations Conference on Environment
and Development institutional arrangements

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its 11th plenary meeting, on 30 June 1992, the Economic and Social Council decided to consider under agenda item 2 (Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters), the question of post-United Nations Conference on Environment and Development institutional arrangements and requested the Secretariat to provide the required documentation.

2. Annexed to the present note is the text of chapter 38 of Agenda 21, entitled "International institutional arrangements", as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The complete text of Agenda 21 will be issued at a later date in the report of the Conference, which is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

Annex

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS*

Basis for action

38.1. The mandate of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development emanates from General Assembly resolution 44/228, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, affirmed that the Conference should elaborate strategies and measures to halt and reverse the effects of environmental degradation in the context of increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries and that the promotion of economic growth in developing countries is essential to address problems of environmental degradation. The intergovernmental follow-up to the Conference process shall be within the framework of the United Nations system, with the General Assembly being the supreme policy-making forum that would provide overall guidance to Governments, the United Nations system and relevant treaty bodies. At the same time, Governments, as well as regional economic and technical cooperation organizations, have a responsibility to play an important role in the follow-up to the Conference. Their commitments and actions should be adequately supported by the United Nations system and multilateral financial institutions. Thus, national and international efforts would mutually benefit from one another.

38.2. In fulfilling the mandate of the Conference, there is a need for institutional arrangements within the United Nations system in conformity with, and providing input into, the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and the overall reform of the United Nations, including ongoing changes in the Secretariat. In the spirit of reform and revitalization of the United Nations system, implementation of Agenda 21 and other conclusions of the Conference shall be based on an action- and result-oriented approach and consistent with the principles of universality, democracy, transparency, cost-effectiveness and accountability.

38.3. The United Nations system, with its multisectoral capacity and the extensive experience of a number of specialized agencies in various spheres of international cooperation in the field of environment and development, is uniquely positioned to assist Governments to establish more effective patterns of economic and social development with a view to achieving the objectives of Agenda 21 and sustainable development.

38.4. All agencies of the United Nations system have a key role to play in the implementation of Agenda 21 within their respective competence. To ensure

* Chapter 38 of Agenda 21, as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

proper coordination and avoid duplication in the implementation of Agenda 21, there should be an effective division of labour between various parts of the United Nations system based on their terms of reference and comparative advantages. Member States, through relevant governing bodies, are in a position to ensure that these tasks are carried out properly. In order to facilitate evaluation of agencies' performance and promote knowledge of their activities, all bodies of the United Nations system should be required to elaborate and publish reports of their activities concerning the implementation of Agenda 21 on a regular basis. Serious and continuous reviews of their policies, programmes, budgets and activities will also be required.

38.5. The continued active and effective participation of non-governmental organizations, the scientific community and the private sector, as well as local groups and communities, are important in the implementation of Agenda 21.

38.6. The institutional structure envisaged below will be based on agreement on financial resources and mechanisms, technology transfer, the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. In addition, there has to be an effective link between substantive action and financial support, and this requires close and effective cooperation and exchange of information between the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions for the follow-up of Agenda 21 within the institutional arrangement.

Objectives

38.7. The overall objective is the integration of environment and development issues at national, subregional, regional and international levels, including in the United Nations system institutional arrangements.

38.8. Specific objectives shall be:

(a) To ensure and review the implementation of Agenda 21 so as to achieve sustainable development in all countries;

(b) To enhance the role and functioning of the United Nations system in the field of environment and development. All relevant agencies, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system should adopt concrete programmes for the implementation of Agenda 21 and also provide policy guidance for United Nations activities or advice to Governments, upon request, within their areas of competence;

(c) To strengthen cooperation and coordination on environment and development in the United Nations system;

(d) To encourage interaction and cooperation between the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental subregional, regional and global institutions and non-governmental organizations in the field of environment and development;

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(e) To strengthen institutional capabilities and arrangements required for the effective implementation, follow-up and review of Agenda 21;

(f) To assist in the strengthening and coordination of national, subregional and regional capacities and actions in the areas of environment and development;

(g) To establish effective cooperation and exchange of information between United Nations organs, organizations, programmes and the multilateral financial bodies, within the institutional arrangements for the follow-up of Agenda 21;

(h) To respond to continuing and emerging issues relating to environment and development;

(i) To ensure that any new institutional arrangements would support revitalization, clear division of responsibilities and the avoidance of duplication in the United Nations system and depend to the maximum extent possible upon existing resources.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

A. General Assembly

38.9. The General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental mechanism, is the principal policy-making and appraisal organ on matters relating to the follow-up of the Conference. The Assembly would organize a regular review of the implementation of Agenda 21. In fulfilling this task, the Assembly could consider the timing, format and organizational aspects of such a review. In particular, the Assembly could consider holding a special session not later than 1997 for the overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, with adequate preparations at a high level.

B. Economic and Social Council

38.10. The Economic and Social Council, in the context of its role under the Charter vis-à-vis the General Assembly and the ongoing restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, would assist the General Assembly by overseeing system-wide coordination in the implementation of Agenda 21 and making recommendations in this regard. In addition, the Council would undertake the task of directing system-wide coordination and integration of environmental and developmental aspects of United Nations policies and programmes and would make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly, specialized agencies concerned and Member States. Appropriate steps should be taken to obtain regular reports from specialized agencies on their plans and programmes related to the implementation of Agenda 21, pursuant to Article 64 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Economic and Social Council should organize a periodic

review of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development envisaged in paragraph 38.11, as well as of system-wide activities to integrate environment and development, making full use of its high-level and coordination segments.

C. Commission on Sustainable Development

38.11. In order to ensure the effective follow-up of the Conference, as well as to enhance international cooperation and rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues and to examine the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national, regional and international levels, a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development should be established in accordance with Article 68 of the Charter of the United Nations. This Commission would report to the Economic and Social Council in the context of the Council's role under the Charter vis-à-vis the General Assembly. It would consist of representatives of States elected as members with due regard to equitable geographical distribution. Representatives of non-member States of the Commission would have observer status. The Commission should provide for the active involvement of organs, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, and encourage the participation of non-governmental organizations, including industry and the business and scientific communities. The first meeting of the Commission should be convened no later than 1993. The Commission should be supported by the secretariat envisaged in paragraph 38.19. Meanwhile the Secretary-General of the United Nations is requested to ensure adequate interim administrative secretariat arrangements.

38.12. The General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, should determine specific organizational modalities for the work of this Commission, such as its membership, its relationship with other intergovernmental United Nations bodies dealing with matters related to environment and development, and the frequency, duration and venue of its meetings. These modalities should take into account the ongoing process of revitalization and restructuring of the work of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in particular measures recommended by the General Assembly in resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 and other relevant Assembly resolutions. In this respect, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, is requested to prepare for the Assembly a report with appropriate recommendations and proposals.

38.13. The Commission on Sustainable Development should have the following functions:

(a) To monitor progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and activities related to the integration of environmental and developmental goals throughout the United Nations system through analysis and evaluation of reports from all relevant organs, organizations, programmes and institutions

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of the United Nations system dealing with various issues of environment and development, including those related to finance;

(b) To consider information provided by Governments, including, for example, information in the form of periodic communications or national reports regarding the activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the problems they face, such as problems related to financial resources and technology transfer, and other environment and development issues they find relevant;

(c) To review the progress in the implementation of the commitments contained in Agenda 21, including those related to provision of financial resources and transfer of technology;

(d) To receive and analyse relevant input from competent non-governmental organizations, including the scientific and private sectors, in the context of the overall implementation of Agenda 21;

(e) To enhance the dialogue, within the framework of the United Nations, with non-governmental organizations and the independent sector, as well as other entities outside the United Nations system;

(f) To consider, where appropriate, information regarding the progress made in the implementation of environmental conventions, which could be made available by the relevant Conferences of Parties;

(g) To provide appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of Agenda 21;

(h) To consider, at an appropriate time, the results of the review to be conducted expeditiously by the Secretary-General of all recommendations of the Conference for capacity-building programmes, information networks, task forces and other mechanisms to support the integration of environment and development at regional and subregional levels.

38.14. Within the intergovernmental framework, consideration should be given to allowing non-governmental organizations, including those related to major groups, particularly women's groups, committed to the implementation of Agenda 21 to have relevant information available to them, including information, reports and other data produced within the United Nations system.

D. The Secretary-General

38.15. Strong and effective leadership on the part of the Secretary-General is crucial, since he/she would be the focal point of the institutional arrangements within the United Nations system for the successful follow-up to the Conference and for the implementation of Agenda 21.

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E. High-level inter-agency coordination mechanism

38.16. Agenda 21, as the basis for action by the international community to integrate environment and development, should provide the principal framework for coordination of relevant activities within the United Nations system. To ensure effective monitoring, coordination and supervision of the involvement of the United Nations system in the follow-up to the Conference, there is a need for a coordination mechanism under the direct leadership of the Secretary-General.

38.17. This task should be given to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), headed by the Secretary-General. ACC would thus provide a vital link and interface between the multilateral financial institutions and other United Nations bodies at the highest administrative level. The Secretary-General should continue to revitalize the functioning of the Committee. All heads of agencies and institutions of the United Nations system shall be expected to cooperate with the Secretary-General fully in order to make ACC work effectively in fulfilling its crucial role and ensure successful implementation of Agenda 21. ACC should consider establishing a special task force, subcommittee or sustainable development board, taking into account the experience of the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters (DOEM) and the Committee of International Development Institutions on Environment (CIDIE), as well as the respective roles of UNEP and UNDP. Its report should be submitted to the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

F. High-level advisory body

38.18. Intergovernmental bodies, the Secretary-General and the United Nations system as a whole may also benefit from the expertise of a high-level advisory board consisting of eminent persons knowledgeable about environment and development, including relevant sciences, appointed by the Secretary-General in their personal capacity. In this regard, the Secretary-General should make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

G. Secretariat support structure

38.19. A highly qualified and competent secretariat support structure within the United Nations Secretariat, drawing, inter alia, on the expertise gained in the Conference preparatory process is essential for the follow-up to the Conference and the implementation of Agenda 21. This secretariat support structure should provide support to the work of both intergovernmental and inter-agency coordination mechanisms. Concrete organizational decisions fall within the competence of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the Organization, who is requested to report on the provisions to be made, covering staffing implications, as soon as practicable, taking into account gender balance as defined in Article 8 of the Charter of the United Nations and the need for the best use of existing resources in the context of the current and ongoing restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat.

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H. Organs, programmes and organizations of the
United Nations system

38.20. In the follow-up to the Conference, in particular the implementation of Agenda 21, all relevant organs, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system will have an important role within their respective areas of expertise and mandates in supporting and supplementing national efforts. Coordination and mutual complementarity of their efforts to promote integration of environment and development can be enhanced by encouraging countries to maintain consistent positions in the various governing bodies.

1. United Nations Environment Programme

38.21. In the follow-up to the Conference, there will be a need for an enhanced and strengthened role for UNEP and its Governing Council. The Governing Council should, within its mandate, continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective.

38.22. Priority areas on which UNEP should concentrate include the following:

(a) Strengthening its catalytic role in stimulating and promoting environmental activities and considerations throughout the United Nations system;

(b) Promoting international cooperation in the field of environment and recommending, as appropriate, policies to this end;

(c) Developing and promoting the use of such techniques as natural resource accounting and environmental economics;

(d) Environmental monitoring and assessment, both through improved participation by the United Nations system agencies in the Earthwatch programme and expanded relations with private scientific and non-governmental research institutes; strengthening and making operational its early-warning function;

(e) Coordination and promotion of relevant scientific research with a view to providing a consolidated basis for decision-making;

(f) Dissemination of environmental information and data to Governments and to organs, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system;

(g) Raising general awareness and action in the area of environmental protection through collaboration with the general public, non-governmental entities and intergovernmental institutions;

(h) Further development of international environmental law, in particular conventions and guidelines, promotion of its implementation, and coordinating functions arising from an increasing number of international legal agreements, inter alia, the functioning of the secretariats of the Conventions, taking into account the need for the most efficient use of resources, including possible co-location of secretariats established in the future;

(i) Further development and promotion of the widest possible use of environmental impact assessments, including activities carried out under the auspices of specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and in connection with every significant economic development project or activity;

(j) Facilitation of information exchange on environmentally sound technologies, including legal aspects, and provision of training;

(k) Promotion of subregional and regional cooperation and support to relevant initiatives and programmes for environmental protection, including playing a major contributing and coordinating role in the regional mechanisms in the field of environment identified for the follow-up to the Conference;

(l) Provision of technical, legal and institutional advice to Governments, upon request, in establishing and enhancing their national legal and institutional frameworks, in particular, in cooperation with UNDP capacity-building efforts;

(m) Support to Governments, upon request, and development agencies and organs in the integration of environmental aspects into their development policies and programmes, in particular through provision of environmental, technical and policy advice during programme formulation and implementation;

(n) Further developing assessment and assistance in cases of environmental emergencies.

38.23. In order to perform all of these functions, while retaining its role as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment and taking into account the development aspects of environmental questions, UNEP would require access to greater expertise and provision of adequate financial resources and it would require closer cooperation and collaboration with development organs and other relevant organs of the United Nations system. Furthermore, the regional offices of UNEP should be strengthened without weakening its headquarters in Nairobi, and UNEP should take steps to reinforce and intensify its liaison and interaction with UNDP and the World Bank.

2. United Nations Development Programme

38.24. UNDP, like UNEP, also has a crucial role in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Through its network of field offices it would foster the United Nations system's collective thrust in support of the implementation of Agenda 21, at the country, regional, interregional and global levels, drawing on the expertise of the specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations and bodies involved in operational activities. The role of the resident representative/resident coordinator of UNDP needs to be strengthened in order to coordinate the field-level activities of the United Nations operational activities.

38.25. Its role should include the following:

(a) Acting as the lead agency in organizing United Nations system efforts towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels;

(b) Mobilizing donor resources on behalf of Governments for capacity-building in recipient countries and, where appropriate, through the use of the UNDP donor round-table mechanisms;

(c) Strengthening its own programmes in support of follow-up to the Conference without prejudice to the Fifth Programme Cycle;

(d) Assisting recipient countries, upon request, in the establishment and strengthening of national coordination mechanisms and networks related to activities for the follow-up to the Conference;

(e) Assisting recipient countries, upon request, in coordinating the mobilization of domestic financial resources;

(f) Promoting and strengthening the role and involvement of women, youth and other major groups in recipient countries in the implementation of Agenda 21.

3. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

38.26. UNCTAD should play an important role in the implementation of Agenda 21 as extended at its eighth session, taking into account the importance of the interrelationships between development, international trade and the environment and in accordance with its mandate in the area of sustainable development.

4. United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office

38.27. The role of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), with added resources that may become available, operating under the umbrella of UNDP and with the support of UNEP, should be strengthened so that it can assume an appropriate major advisory role and participate effectively in the implementation of Agenda 21 provisions related to combating drought and desertification and to land resource management. In this context, the experience gained could be used by all other countries affected by drought and desertification, in particular those in Africa, with special attention to countries most affected or classified as least developed countries.

5. Specialized agencies of the United Nations system and related organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations

38.28. All specialized agencies of the United Nations system, related organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations within their respective fields of competence have an important role to play in the implementation of relevant parts of Agenda 21 and other decisions of the Conference. Their governing bodies may consider ways of strengthening and adjusting activities and programmes in line with Agenda 21, in particular, regarding projects for promoting sustainable development. Furthermore, they may consider establishing special arrangements with donors and financial institutions for project implementation that may require additional resources.

I. Regional and subregional cooperation and implementation

38.29. Regional and subregional cooperation will be an important part of the outcome of the Conference. The regional commissions, regional development banks and regional economic and technical cooperation organizations, within their respective agreed mandates, can contribute to this process by:

(a) Promoting regional and subregional capacity-building;

(b) Promoting the integration of environmental concerns in regional and subregional development policies;

(c) Promoting regional and subregional cooperation, where appropriate, regarding transboundary issues related to sustainable development.

38.30. The regional commissions, as appropriate, should play a leading role in coordinating regional and subregional activities by sectoral and other United Nations bodies and shall assist countries in achieving sustainable development. The commissions and regional programmes within the United Nations system, as well as other regional organizations, should review the need for modification of ongoing activities, as appropriate, in light of Agenda 21.

38.31. There must be active cooperation and collaboration among the regional commissions and other relevant organizations, regional development banks, non-governmental organizations and other institutions at the regional level. UNEP and UNDP, together with the regional commissions, would have a crucial role to play, especially in providing the necessary assistance, with particular emphasis on building and strengthening the national capacity of Member States.

38.32. There is a need for closer cooperation between UNEP and UNDP, together with other relevant institutions, in the implementation of projects to halt environmental degradation or its impact and to support training programmes in environmental planning and management for sustainable development at the regional level.

38.33. Regional intergovernmental technical and economic organizations have an important role to play in helping Governments to take coordinated action in solving environment issues of regional significance.

38.34. Regional and subregional organizations should play a major role in the implementation of the provisions of Agenda 21 related to combating drought and desertification. UNEP, UNDP and UNSO should assist and cooperate with those relevant organizations.

38.35. Cooperation between regional and subregional organizations and relevant organizations of the United Nations system should be encouraged, where appropriate, in other sectoral areas.

J. National implementation

38.36. States have an important role to play in the follow-up of the Conference and the implementation of Agenda 21. National level efforts should be undertaken by all countries in an integrated manner so that both environment and development concerns can be dealt with in a coherent manner.

38.37. Policy decisions and activities at the national level, tailored to support and implement Agenda 21, should be supported by the United Nations system upon request.

38.38. Furthermore, States could consider the preparation of national reports. In this context, the organs of the United Nations system should, upon request, assist countries, in particular developing countries. Countries could also consider the preparation of national action plans for the implementation of Agenda 21.

38.39. Existing assistance consortia, consultative groups and round tables should make greater efforts to integrate environmental considerations and related development objectives into their development assistance strategies and should consider reorienting and appropriately adjusting their memberships and operations to facilitate this process and better support national efforts to integrate environment and development.

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38.40. States may wish to consider setting up a national coordination structure responsible for the follow-up of Agenda 21. Within this structure, which would benefit from the expertise of non-governmental organizations, submissions and other relevant information could be made to the United Nations.

K. Cooperation between United Nations bodies and international financial organizations

38.41. The success of the follow-up to the Conference is dependent upon an effective link between substantive action and financial support, and this requires close and effective cooperation between United Nations bodies and the multilateral financial organizations. The Secretary-General and heads of United Nations programmes, organizations and the multilateral financial organizations have a special responsibility in forging such cooperation, not only through the United Nations high-level coordination mechanism (Administrative Committee on Coordination) but also at regional and national levels. In particular, representatives of multilateral financial institutions and mechanisms, as well as IFAD, should actively be associated with deliberations of the intergovernmental structure responsible for the follow-up to Agenda 21.

L. Non-governmental organizations

38.42. Non-governmental organizations and major groups are important partners in the implementation of Agenda 21. Relevant non-governmental organizations, including the scientific community, the private sector and women's groups, should be given opportunities to make their contributions and establish appropriate relationships with the United Nations system. Support should be provided for developing countries' non-governmental organizations and their self-organized networks.

38.43. The United Nations system, including international finance and development agencies, and all intergovernmental organizations and forums should, in consultation with non-governmental organizations, take measures to:

(a) Design open and effective means to achieve the participation of non-governmental organizations, including those related to major groups, in the process established to review and evaluate the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels and promote their contribution to it;

(b) Take into account the findings of review systems and evaluation processes of non-governmental organizations in relevant reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and all pertinent United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and forums concerning implementation of Agenda 21 in accordance with the review process.

38.44. Procedures should be established for an expanded role for non-governmental organizations, including those related to major groups, with accreditation based on the procedures used in the Conference. Such organizations should have access to reports and other information produced by the United Nations system. The General Assembly, at an early stage, should examine ways of enhancing the involvement of non-governmental organizations within the United Nations system in relation to the follow-up process of the Conference.

38.45. The Conference takes note of other institutional initiatives for the implementation of Agenda 21, such as the proposal to establish a non-governmental Earth Council and the proposal to appoint a guardian for future generations, as well as other initiatives taken by local governments and business sectors.
